

From: Marcus Lauer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:42pm
Subject: Concerns About Microsoft Settlement

I was not at all surprised by the results of DOJ vs. Microsoft. What surprises me is that the proposed settlement does not address the issues of the case in the least! Requiring Microsoft to buy computers for schools is simply a monetary punishment: a fine. Microsoft was not found guilty of failing to give enough money to charity! They were found guilty of abusing their monopoly in the desktop computer operating system market. Only a settlement which directly addresses this behavior is acceptable. We punish crimes because we do not want them to reoccur. A punishment which prevents the crime from reoccurring, or at least attempts to, should be the preferred solution.

It is impossible to calculate a dollar value for the damage which Microsoft has done to other companies, and to the World-Wide Web, through abusing its monopoly. Instead, let's try matching the punishment to the crime.

Marcus